



# THE WHEELHOUSE

## NATIONAL OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING (OPCOM) INVITATION

- All Auxiliarists are invited to attend the Coast Guard Auxiliary's first virtual national Operating Committee (OPCOM) meeting this coming Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 1300 EST. The meeting will be live streamed on You Tube. To join the meeting click on: [OPCOM](#)

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**AUX Gil Lugo SO-PV has offered to help with certification in Program Visitor.**

We are tentatively discussing going out starting this Sunday 24-JAN 2021 to City Island . If anyone has passed the test and is interested in going out to do PVs at City Island-please reply to

AUX Avi Henoch FSO-PV avihenoch@aol.com

Boating Community Benefits:

A successful RBS Visitation Program will benefit the recreational boating public by:

- Providing public education information and local class schedules.
- Public awareness of federal, state and local safety requirements and/or other educational opportunities with literature available at the Partners business location.
- Advising the Partners of U.S. Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary boating safety missions and services to convey to their customers.
- Providing the Partner with literature that provides the public with a better understanding of the responsibilities of being a boat operator or a passenger on a boat.
- Increased awareness of life jacket features, use and safety.
- Providing the Partner with literature that provides the public with information on America's Waterway Watch (AWW) Program.
- Familiarizing the Partner with literature and knowledge of the "You're in Command" initiative which encourages all recreational boaters to take responsibility for their actions on the water.



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## PV Qualification:

- One of the quickest and easiest qualifications to get is becoming a Recreational Program Visitor. All you need to do is take and pass the online test called:

**MDV** Recreational Boating Safety Program Visitor Exam

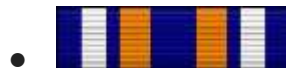
- [click here to take test](#)

Once you pass this course you will have to complete 2 visits under the supervision of someone already certified.

Once you complete this and are approved you are authorized to wear the Visitor/Examiner Ribbon.



If you complete 60 or more visits in 1 year you will receive the RBS excellence ribbon



If you complete 120 visits (vessel exams, PA hours, instructor hours also count) for 2 consecutive years you will earn the RBS device.



The latest manual can be found at this link-

[http://wow.uscgaux.info/Uploads\\_wowII/V-DEPT/RBSVP\\_Manual\\_COMDTINST\\_16796.3D\\_2020\\_DEC\\_09.pdf](http://wow.uscgaux.info/Uploads_wowII/V-DEPT/RBSVP_Manual_COMDTINST_16796.3D_2020_DEC_09.pdf)

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## HAM Radio Course

John Kiernan will be conducting a HAM Radio Course beginning January 13 at 8PM, and every Wednesday at 8 thereafter for at least four weeks. If Interested email John at: ke2un@msn.com

If you want to find out more about Amateur radio go to ARRL.org which has a great detail of the subject. Amateur Radio has many facets. When they become a Ham, they can get involved in fast scan TV. Talking to Astronauts in the space station, use amateurs' satellites to communicate with other hams, work digital stations, build their own radios and so on. Amateur radio is a constant learning experience There would not have been cell phones if there were not hams who developed the service.

- The Technician class license is the entry-level license of choice for most new ham radio operators. To earn the Technician license requires passing one examination totaling 35 questions on radio theory, regulations, and operating practices. The license gives access to all Amateur Radio frequencies above 30 megahertz, allowing these licensees the ability to communicate locally and most often within North America. It also allows for some limited privileges on the HF (also called "short wave") bands used for international communications. The course will train the student to be able to pass the Technician class license. The class will have video, powerpoint and classroom questions and answers which will cover the question pool. The student will be required to study the chapter in the manual. The course is designed to help the student to better understand what he has studied. Most students pass the test after classroom training. The student will require to obtain the Ham Radio License Manual 4th edition. Depending on the student's choice of manual the price will range from \$20 to \$30. They can get the manual from Amazon or ARRL.org. The manual comes in 3 forms Kindle, paperback or spiral-bound. The first session will be an overview of the course. Using video and student questions All are invited. Note this is not a Coast Guard Auxiliary course. I do believe it will help a student who is interested in radio communication to better understand the Auxiliary courses and also learn how to communicate over the radio.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary and its members offer a tremendous array of free courses and certifications. This is one example of an opportunity being offered by one of our shipmates to begin next week.

The course will culminate with an opportunity to garner an FCC license.

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# THE WHEELHOUSE

## **Looking for Instructors**

We are planning on offering the following four courses in a virtual format over the President's Day weekend in February. We are looking for instructors interested in conducting these courses, as well as members who are interested in qualifying for the Instructor Qualification. Exact schedule TBA. If interested, please contact AUX John McNamara VFC, FSO-PE at: [cgauxjwm@gmail.com](mailto:cgauxjwm@gmail.com)

### **Suddenly in Command (2 hours):**

The captain becomes incapacitated or falls overboard, or you purchase a new boat for the first time. You are Suddenly in Command. This boating safety primer is designed for those not generally at the helm, and will help you to be prepared with the basics in case of an emergency.

You will learn about your vessel, nomenclature, and operating principles such as starting the engine, basic boat handling, and your on-board equipment. Included are descriptions of what causes boating mishaps and how to minimize them. This course is a must for family members in case something happens to the boat operator.

### **Personal Watercraft Course (1 hour):**

Personal Watercraft Course is a basic introduction to the safety issues involved when operating a PWC. The purpose of the course is to teach that PWCs are true boats and that their skippers have the same legal responsibilities, and should learn the rules of the road to the same degree as any other boater.

### **Paddler's Guide to Safety (1 hour):**

The objective for this course is for novice paddlers to be aware of the basic issues and needs for paddling safety, the basic equipment they should have, and to provide some info about paddling that will help them be a more knowledgeable and safer paddler.

### **Waypoints (1 hour):**

Waypoints is designed as a pre-teen program about basic boating safety. However, anyone interested in learning about basic boating safety will benefit from taking this course. Topics include parts of a boat, life jackets, keeping your balance in a boat, safety equipment, basic boating rules, and what to do if someone falls out of the boat.

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## What is a gig Line?

- The straight line that runs down the front center of the torso formed by the alignment of the shirt, belt buckle and trouser fly. Failure to align these elements when wearing the uniform results in a “gig,” or recorded fault during inspection.
- Uniform procedures can be found in auxiliary manual and in the uniform tab  
<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=H-DEPT&category=auxiliary-uniforms>  
<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=H-DEPT&category=auxiliary-manuals>



### Straighten your "Gig Line"

There is an imaginary line that connects the buttons on your shirt, the edge of your belt buckle, and the zipper of your trousers... make sure it is straight!



September 18, 2009 USCG Auxiliary Uniforms

## Tropical Blue Belt

**14**



**Men**  
Men's Shirt and Men's Trousers Align the belt so that the tab edge (metal tip) touches the wearer's LEFT side of the buckle. Align the right side of the buckle with the opening of the shirt and opening of the fly, forming a straight line.

**Women**  
Women's Shirt and Women's Trousers Align the belt so that the tab edge touches the wearer's RIGHT side of the buckle. Align the left side of the buckle with the opening of the shirt and opening of the fly, forming a straight line.

Combination of Men's and Women's Shirt and Trousers When wearing a shirt and trousers for different sexes, a shirt, trousers and fly alignment is unachievable. However, in all cases, the non-tab edge of the belt must align with the fly.

LearnBoatSafety.com

